

Executive Registry

10-9835

20 DEC 1958

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27/1/81

Honorable Clarence Cannon, Chairman  
House Appropriations Committee  
House of Representatives  
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Cannon:

Having in mind the convening of the 86th Congress in the near future, I would like to bring to your attention several thoughts concerning Agency appearances before the CIA Subcommittee of the House Appropriations Committee. As in the past, I shall continue to make myself available to respond to the wishes of the Chairman and the Subcommittee members.

Very early in the coming session, possibly in January, I would like to appear before the Subcommittee to present a briefing which will deal in considerable detail with the Agency's activities, operations, and some of its accomplishments. It is expected that this briefing would last no more than two hours. I suggest that we be permitted to conduct this briefing reserving questions until its completion, at which time I and other members of my staff would be glad to respond to questions.

At the end of this presentation or at another meeting, I would be glad to furnish an intelligence briefing concerning recent events and a general status report. However, it is my belief that a briefing on the Agency itself is highly desirable to enable the Subcommittee members more effectively to judge the progress of the Agency. The scope and content of such a briefing have been

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Cannon

ER file

discussed with Mr. Kenneth Sprankle, Staff Director, House Appropriations Committee. In the meantime, if there is any way the Agency can be of assistance to the Subcommittee, please let us know.

Sincerely,

**SIGNED**

Allen W. Dulles  
Director

OGC/LC:  (19 December 1958)

cc: DCI  
DDCI  
ER  
Legislative Counsel

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11 December 1958

## MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

**SUBJECT: Conversation with Mr. Kenneth Sprankle - House  
Appropriations Committee**

1. In talking with Mr. Kenneth Sprankle about the proposed Agency briefing of the Appropriations Subcommittee concerning CIA activities and operations, Mr. Sprankle thought that this was an excellent idea to provide a background for the following Appropriations budget hearings. Mr. Sprankle gratuitously offered the comment that Mr. Cannon appeared at times to think that the Agency was hiding behind a cloak of secrecy and that Mr. Cannon was getting a little tired of it.

2. I mentioned the fact that Mr. Dulles desired to talk to Mr. Cannon about the question of a periodic briefing. Mr. Sprankle stated as his personal opinion that Mr. Cannon's suggestion of placing a man in the Agency was most inappropriate and he thought that the Agency should take a firm stand on this. Sprankle seemed to lean toward the idea of a weekly summary of some type. He was cool toward the idea of a frequent oral briefing on the grounds that the Committee members simply would not attend. However, Mr. Sprankle thought it might be very desirable for the Agency to take the initiative in briefing the Committee when specific events occurred.

3. The question of some type of a report by the Subcommittee to the full Committee was discussed. Mr. Sprankle was very firm in his belief that this was not feasible on the simple ground that there were members of the full Committee who simply could not keep executive session matters to themselves.

S/ [Redacted]

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Legislative Counsel

Executive Registry

10-9835/1

19 December 1958

**MEMORANDUM FOR:** Director of Central Intelligence

**SUBJECT:** Actions to be Taken with Representative  
Clarence Cannon

1. This memorandum suggests action on the part of the Director of Central Intelligence. Such requested action is contained in paragraphs 2 and 3.
2. Attached is a proposed letter for your signature to Representative Cannon. The letter requests the opportunity for the Agency to present a briefing on its activities and operations early in the coming session. Also attached is a Memorandum for the Record of my conversation with Mr. Kenneth Sprankle, Staff Director of the House Appropriations Committee, in which the subject of this briefing was discussed in some detail. The fact of this discussion is noted in the proposed letter. In addition, the memorandum records the discussion relating to reports of any kind of the Subcommittee.
3. Mr. Cannon is presently in town and plans to remain here until Congress convenes. As a personal touch you may wish to telephone him when you have signed the letter proposing the Agency briefing. The question of periodic briefings by the Agency of the Appropriations Subcommittee could be left until you actually meet with the Subcommittee and it is to be hoped you will have seen Mr. Vinson in the meantime.

Atts. 2

Distribution:

O - DCI  
1 - DDCI  
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Legislative Counsel

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